

## Message Text

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 11923 081732Z

45

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 CCO-00

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4637

USMISSION USUN NY IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY KUWAIT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY

USINT CAIRO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TUNIS PRIORITY

S E C R E T BEIRUT 11923

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: XX'

SUBJECT: MIDDLE EAST SITUATION

1. KUWAIT'S 3690 PERFECTLY STATES BASIC POINT I TRIED  
TO MAKE IN URGING SUPPORT FOR STANDSTILL CEASEFIRE.  
PREVIOUSLY WE INSISTED THAT ISRAELIS WERE NOT REQUIRED TO  
RETURN TO OLD ARMISTICELINE AND THAT ISRAEL HAD RIGHT  
TO RETAIN AT LEAST SOME ARAB TERRITORY GAINED BY  
CONQUEST IN 1967. SHOULD WE NOW INSIST ON RESTORATION  
STATUS QUO ANTE WHILE ARABS HAVE REOCCUPIED SOME OF  
THEIR OWN TERRITORY, WE WOULD BE SAYING ISRAELIS  
CAN KEEP ARAB TERRITORY TAKEN BY FORCE BUT ARABS  
HAVE NO RIGHT TO RETAIN THEIR OWN TERRITORY EVEN WHEN  
THEY HAVE RETAKEN IT.

SECRET

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2. RESPONSIBLE LEBANESE WITH WHOM WE HAVE BEEN IN  
TOUCH BELIEVE US AND ONLY US HAS STRONG ENOUGH POSITION  
WITH BOTH SIDES TO TRANSFORM CURRENT CHAOS INTO PERMANENT  
PEACE SETTLEMENT. THEY BELIEVE WE HAVE BEEN RESTRAINED

AND OBJECTIVE IN OUR PUBLIC COMMENTS SO FAR AND NOTE THAT, IN TURN, EGYPT AND SYRIA HAVE GIVEN US REASONABLE TREATMENT IN THEIR PUBLIC MEDIA DURING PRESENT ROUND.

3. CONSENSUS OF OPINION AMONG THESE LEADERS IS THAT WITH SURPRISING DEMONSTRATION OF MILITARY ABILITY AND COURAGE BY EGYPTIANS AND SYRIANS OVER LAST TWO DAYS, ARABS HAVE REGAINED THEIR SELF-ESTEEM, NO LONGER FEEL HUMILIATED AND WOULD NOW GO TO THE NEGOTIATING TABLE WITH A DEGREE OF CONFIDENCE AND DOMESTIC POLITICAL SUPPORT THAT WOULD PERMIT THEM TO ENGAGE IN MEANINGFUL PEACE DISCUSSIONS.

4. HOWEVER, SHOULD USG APPEAR TO RALLY TO ISRAELI POINT OF VIEW FOR EXAMPLE BY LINKING CEASEFIRE TO RETURN TO STATUS QUO ANTE, USG WILL IMMEDIATELY BE CONDEMNED BY ARABS, SACRIFICE ITS PRESENT STANDING, AND THEREBY LOSE WHAT MAY BE UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO BRING ABOUT REAL PROGRESS TOWARD A SETTLEMENT. WE WOULD PROBABLY PAY HIGH NATIONAL PRICE IN THE PROCESS, AS EMBASSY KUWAIT SUGGESTS.

5. FINAL POINT WHICH DESERVES MENTION IS FACT THAT, AT LEAST ON EGYPTIAN FRONT, FREEZING CEASEFIRE LINES AS OF TODAY, WOULD STILL NOT RPT NOT DENY ISRAELIS ANY ARAB TERRITORY THEY APPEAR TO COVET AS ESSENTIAL FOR SECURITY IN FINAL PEACE SETTLEMENT. AS FAR AS I AM AWARE, EVEN WITH ALL THEIR HOPES OF HOLDING PARTS OF SINAI AND SHARM AL SHAYKH, GOI HAS NOT CONTEMPLATED EGYPTIAN AGREEMENT TO ISRAELI RETENTION OF EAST BANK OF CANAL.  
BUFFUM

SECRET

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**TAGS:** PFOR, XX, XF, LE, IS  
**To:** STATE  
USUN NY INFO KUWAIT  
ABU DHABI  
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